

(c) whether Government are considering for such design changes in other suburban trains in other metropolitan cities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Indian Railways are not aware of any such design, used anywhere in the world, which can withstand the impact of blasts caused by explosives. However, such a concept would be impractical to implement. To minimize the casualties in collisions and fire accidents etc. a number of design inputs are feasible and are being progressively used in manufacture of different types of coaches.

Public-private partnership in Railways

†1943. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to include Public-private partnership in the Railways in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the sectors in which this partnership is likely to be implemented; and

(c) whether this would not encourage the privatization in the Railways and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A number of areas/activities such as upgradation of stations at major metropolitan cities, establishment of super speciality hospitals, setting up of manufacturing units for rolling stock, infrastructure projects for port connectivity through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and several activities in catering/tourism and hospitality area have been identified for possible execution through public-private partnership route.

(c) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.